

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 7th May 1904.

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I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

REFERRING to the present Russo-Japanese War, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st May observes as follows:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
May 1st, 1904.

The Russo-Japanese War. That the Western Powers are no friends of the Japanese was clearly seen during the last war between China and Japan. If the Japanese should come out victorious in the present war, the European Powers would not be very much pleased at the result, for the rise of an Asiatic Power is distasteful to them. If victorious, Japan will not be allowed to reap the fruits of victory; if vanquished, her humiliation will be great. By whatever name this war may be called, it is really a rising up of Asia in arms against the imperialism and ascendancy of Europe. The European Powers know this very well, but prefer to remain quiet, because their interests are not threatened at this moment. If the necessity for interference should arise, they would not hesitate for a moment to take part in the conflict. Europeans would not hesitate to strangle a person whom at one time they embraced in friendship, if by so doing they could gain their selfish ends. Therefore neither the friendship nor the neutrality of a European Power is an element of safety for Japan, for whom victory would be barren of any important results, and defeat would of course be ruinous. What should Japan do in this dilemma? She should conserve her forces; she should not be too much eager to follow up her victory over an enemy whose resources are practically infinite. She should patiently wait till China becomes well trained in the modern system of scientific warfare. The candle which Japan has lighted, has inspired the people of Asia with great hopes. If by any chance that light should be extinguished, all those hopes would then be shattered.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 23rd April says that on the 13th idem two dacoities were committed in the Srighar village under the Nabinagar thana within the Brahmanbaria subdivision of the Tippera district, one in the house of Babu Krishna Chandra Sen, and the other in the shop of Jaymangal Shaha in the local bazar. The dacoits carried away properties of great value from both places.

PRATINIDHI,
April 23rd, 1904.

3. A correspondent of the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th April says that there is a tiger-scare at Katwa. The infant is being carried off at night from the mother's arms. Three infants have thus been carried off within fifteen days.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 26th, 1904.

4. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th April publishes the following account of a case of dacoity in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district:—

CHARU MIHIR,
April 26th, 1904.

A case of dacoity in the Mymensingh district. On the 13th April last, at about 1 A.M., a gang of dacoits, numbering about 50 or 60 armed with spears, lathies, swords and other weapons, with burning torches in their hands, entered the house of a rich man named Ramsundar Saha, an inhabitant of the Dowjani village within the Ghatail outpost. The dacoits surrounded the house, roused the inmates from sleep by loud yells and by striking against the corrugated iron roof with lathies, and then severely beat them and bound their arms behind their backs. They then broke open the door of Ramsundar's house and carried away Rs. 1,500 in cash, and jewels and other articles worth upwards of Rs. 3,000.

Another case of dacoity has occurred at Narandia in the house of one Gaur Kuri. The police has not been able to successfully investigate a single case out of five or six cases of dacoity in quick succession. The attention of the authorities is drawn to these cases.

5. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th April endorses the suggestion of the *Charu Mihir* that the Subdivisional Officer of Tangail should prepare a list of all the lathials in the Tangail subdivision, and their leaders should be bound down to keep the peace. By this means alone can the horrible dacoities

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 27th, 1904.

The lathials in the Tangail subdivision of the Mymensingh district.

and thefts that are now being committed in that part of the country be effectively checked. These *lathials* are in league with the police, and it is not easy to bring them under the law.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 27th, 1904.

6. A correspondent writes to the *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 27th April that several thefts recently occurred in the houses of respectable persons in the Bhola town. Not a single case has yet been traced by the local police, which is utterly inefficient. A competent detective officer should be deputed to Bhola.

Thefts in Bhola town in the Backergunge district.

MEDINI BANDHAB,
April 27th, 1904.

7. The *Medini Bandhab* [Midnapore] of the 27th April reports that lately Dr. Bankim Chandra Ghosh had a narrow escape from dacoits while he was driving through a jungly tract in the Midnapore district. The Jhargram police are making an enquiry. The writer adds: "The country is disarmed, the police are too few, the authorities are indifferent. In this extremity the Almighty is our only resource."

A case of attempted highway robbery in the Midnapore district.

JASOHAR,
April 27th, 1904.

8. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 27th April says that a gang of dacoits and *budmashes* has for some time past proved the terror of the inhabitants of Kusorkona and the neighbouring villages under the Madirampur thana in the Jessore district. Incendiarism, rape, skinning alive of cattle, etc., have become frequent. People do not take any steps against them for fear of being the victims of their displeasure. The house of Babu Ram Kumar Ghosh, an inhabitant of the Kusorkona village, was burnt down because he had induced Babu Giris Chandra Mitra, whose house was plundered by the dacoits, to lodge information against them in the thana, had given protection to some respectable young women whose modesty had been threatened by them, and had refused to take any side in a quarrel among themselves. This quarrel arose out of a love affair. Two of the *budmashes* fell in love with a young Musalman woman, and eventually when her husband died, one of them, with the help of his friends, forcibly carried her off at night after an unsuccessful attack during daytime. Enraged at this, the other *budmashes* joined the relations of the kidnapped woman and lodged information in the local thana. An enquiry was made, but with what effect is not known. It is a shame that such anarchy should exist under British rule. The villagers are too poor to check the *budmashes*, but as a split has occurred in the gang, it is high time for the police to take advantage of it to bring their misdeeds to light. Many of the *budmashes* are old convicts, and it is a wonder that they are able to hoodwink the police in this way.

Budmashes in some villages in the Jessore district.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
April 30th, 1904.

9. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 30th April says that many of the inhabitants of the Pratappur, Balia, Satmanja, Ichhapur, and some other villages, ten or twelve in all, in the Howrah district, manufacture toddy in their houses and enjoy it with their friends. The drunken revelries of these people have become a source of great trouble to the sober inhabitants of the villages.

Illicit manufacture of toddy in the Howrah district.

RATNAKAR,
April 30th, 1904.

10. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 30th April reports a case of dacoity in the house of a toddy vendor of Nunia and another case in Paharpur. The police have failed to trace a single case.

Dacoities in the Burdwan district.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
April 30th, 1904.

11. It is rumoured, says the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 30th April, that the collecting panchayet of the Amta village in the Howrah district behaves very badly towards the villagers. He keeps the rates payable by the villagers and the beats of chaukidars secret. His favourites either do not pay any tax at all or pay very small amounts. The authorities have been petitioned in the matter.

A chaukidari complaint.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR,
April 26th, 1904.

12. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 26th April writes:—

Babu Bhujendra Nath Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh.

Babu Bhujendra Nath Mukerji, Deputy Magistrate of Mymensingh is one of those officers who are in the habit of beginning Court business late in the day and detaining the parties in criminal cases

till 8 o'clock in the night. The following is an instance of his irregular conduct:—

On the 11th March last, he examined nine witnesses of the complainant against the accused, Resat Sheikh, Lala Mandal and others, who were charged under sections 323 and 147 of the Penal Code, and framed charges against them on the same day, and then called upon the defence pleader to cross-examine the witnesses. After cross-examining some of the witnesses till 6 in the afternoon the pleader begged leave to cross-examine the others next day, which was refused. The pleader then left the Court, after having filed a petition intimating his inability to cross-examine the witnesses after 6 P.M. The Deputy Magistrate then called upon the accused to cross-examine the witnesses and recorded the following order:—"Further cross-examination declined." Having thus brought the cross-examination to a close, the Deputy Magistrate asked for a list of the defence witnesses from the accused, who prayed that they might be permitted to file the list next day. But their prayer was refused. They were then compelled to submit a list of 8 persons. As this list had been submitted without a consultation with their pleader, the accused subsequently made an application to cite some more witnesses; but it was disallowed, although these witnesses might easily appear in Court on the day appointed for the hearing of the case if summonses had been granted on the day of the application. The accused were then sent to jail for three months each.

An appeal was made against this order to Mr. J. N. Ray, Joint Magistrate, who transferred the case to his own file and ordered that all the witnesses should be examined and their depositions should be forwarded to him. The Deputy Magistrate is said to have cross-examined the accused, but this was illegal. He ought to know that this undue anxiety on his part to clear the file in utter disregard of the inconvenience and loss of the parties can never make him a favourite with the Government.

13. The *Santi* [Madaripur] of the 27th April publishes the following in regard to the Munsifs' Courts at Madaripur:—

Civil Court matters at Madaripur in the Faridpur district.

(1) Finding that Durga Mohun, Civil Court peon at Madaripur, had incurred the displeasure of the Sheristadar for refusing to make purchases for him from the market, the District Judge of Faridpur has transferred him to the sadar.

(2) It is very difficult to get copies from the Munsifs' Court at Madaripur. This causes great inconvenience to parties who wish to make appeals to higher Courts. As there are now two comparing clerks, there is no reason why there should be so much delay in granting copies.

(3) The Sheristadar of the First Munsif of Madaripur wrote a letter to the Editor and proprietor of the *Santi* asking him to appear before the Court to answer some questions about an article published in that paper. The Manager of the *Santi*, in reply, said that the Editor could not attend the Court as he was absent from the station. Some further correspondence ensued, and the Manager ended by requesting the Sheristadar to call at his office if he had any information to seek, adding that the Editor would be unable "to appear before the Court."

(4) Babu Bijay Kesab Mitra, the third Munsif of Madaripur, while at Bhola, attempted to insult the well-known pleaders, Babus Kaliprasanna Banerji, M.A., B.L., and Abhay Kumar Chatterji, B.L., and drew up a proceeding against them for alleged contempt of Court, but had to withdraw it afterwards. No wonder therefore that he should entertain a special hatred against the Bar. He has a great dislike for junior pleaders. He was on very bad terms with Babu Banwarilal Banerji, Munsif of Bhola, and he behaved very rudely towards the public while he was there. The following incident will shew how disgracefully he treated a poor man whose house he occupied during the time he lived at Bhola.

One Hriday Krista Das brought a civil suit against Babu Bijay Kesab Mitra, claiming Rs. 51 as rent for his house, which Bejay Babu occupied for more than a year, alleging in his plaint that not a pice had been paid to him on account of rent. The third Munsif not only totally denied the claim, but made a counter-claim for Rs. 56 on account of repairs done to the house, for which he threatened to bring a suit against Hriday Krista Das.

SANTI,
April 27th, 1904.

SANJIVANI,
April 28th, 1904.

14. A correspondent from Netrakona in the Mymensingh district writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th April that the first Munsif of Netrakona is in the habit of inflicting fines upon persons sitting in the shade of a banyan tree near the Court on the alleged ground that they have committed contempt of Court by making a noise. As there is no house near the Civil Courts for the accommodation of parties to suits and their men, they are compelled to take shelter under the tree, but the noise they make never annoyed any of the other Munsifs. During the last five or six months the amount of fines realized was about Rs. 200. The first Munsif ought to be a little less sensitive.

**RANGPUR
VARTAVAHA,**
April 29th, 1904.

15. The *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 29th April says that it is unjust that jurors and assessors living within five miles of the Courts in which they are summoned to serve, should receive no fees at all; because in many cases they have actually to incur expenses in order to attend the Courts. If on any day any juror or assessor fails to respond to the summon to attend the law Court he is punished unless he can prove, by means of a medical certificate, that he was ill. Such is the harassment and persecution which these people have to undergo for a gratuitous work. Then, again, there is a rule that a list of the names of such persons as live in the head-quarters town and are nominated assessors or jurors, should be stuck up in a conspicuous place in the town. But in practice this is not done. Every assessor when nominated should be directly apprised of the fact. The work of selecting assessors is generally done by petty clerks, with the result that illiterate rustics are nominated. The authorities are requested to remove all these defects.

BANKURA DARPAN,
May 1st, 1904.

16. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 1st May recommends that as there is congestion of work in the sadar Munsifs in Bankura, the area comprised within the Indapur thana should be transferred to the jurisdiction of the Khattra Munsifi. This would bring relief to the Munsifs of the Sadar Courts and give just the proper amount of work to the Khattra Munsif's Court, where there is at present very light work. The apprehension that the transfer would reduce the income of some pleaders of Bankura ought surely to give way to other more weighty considerations, not the least of which is the convenience of the litigants, which would be best served by the proposed measure.

AL PUNCH,
April 23rd, 1904.

(d)—Education.

17. *Al Punch* [Bankipur] of the 23rd April is sorry that the management of the High English School at Jamui is very unsatisfactory. The teachers of that school totally neglect their duties. It is said that they are in the habit of taking presents from their students. Two Musalman teachers are going to be dismissed and their places are to be filled with Hindu teachers.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 27th, 1904.

18. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 27th April is sorry that not a single student passed from the *tols* in the Backergunge district in the last Sanskrit Titles Examination. What may be the cause of such wholesale failure? There is very good ground for suspecting that many unfair dealings take place in the conduct of the examination. Unless these are prevented, no good results can be expected. In this connection the writer expresses the belief that the increased attention paid by Government to the teaching of Sanskrit is solely due to its desire to restrict the spread of English education in the country.

BHARAT MITRA,
April 30th, 1904.

19. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 30th April says that Mr. Robson, Principal of the Government College, Lahore, who had invented a new dress for native students studying English, required the students of his own college to put on that dress. Some of the students, who have taken a solemn oath not to use clothes of foreign manufacture and such dresses as have a likeness to those used by Europeans, having disobeyed his order, Mr. Robson has gone the length of saying that to dislike the things which are made in England is to be disloyal. Mr. Robson should not enforce this martial law upon the poor students for the sake of the weavers of his own country. From

Mr. Robson's action it is feared that some day or other he will require his pupils to show their loyalty to a Christian Government by becoming Christians.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

20. We do not know, says the *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 23rd April, why the municipal authorities at Comilla are so very anxious to introduce the Building Regulations into the town. The Regulations would, if enforced in the town, greatly check its development by making the construction of *pucca* buildings extremely difficult within the town area. As a matter of fact, the town is wanting in such buildings. The rate-payers of the place should therefore strenuously oppose the attempt to introduce the Regulations into it.

PRATINIDHI,
April 23rd, 1904.

21. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th April writes that there is severe water-scarcity all over the Burdwan district, and the inhabitants are obliged to drink muddy water. This will certainly produce very fatal consequences if remedial measures are not promptly adopted. It is to be hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will take pity on the poor villagers.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 26th, 1904.

22. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th April writes that there is severe water-scarcity throughout Eastern Bengal. In many places cholera and many other deadly diseases have broken out. Reports of water-scarcity, giving heart-rending details of suffering, are being received from many districts in Northern and Western Bengal. The greatest shortcoming of the present Government is its utter contempt for all that is published in the columns of native newspapers about the people's wants and grievances. Such contempt may be indicative of its masterful and vainglorious disposition. But what sense of responsibility does that Government possess which fritters away the people's money on worthless and useless purposes?

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
April 27th, 1904.

23. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 29th April speaks of the prevalence of severe water-scarcity in the country and appeals to the zamindars, rich men, merchants, public servants and, above all, the Government, for help in the matter of removing it.

SOLTAN,
April 29th, 1904.

24. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April writes as follows:—
“Every man,” say the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, “who has a drop of humanity in him must be shocked to learn that last year in Bengal 150,971 persons died of cholera.” “It is an admitted fact,” further observes the same paper, “that cholera owes much to bad and insufficient drinking-water in the interior.” Is this true, O Our Lord and Sovereign? Your Sanitary Commissioner says nothing about it. Let him institute an enquiry into the matter. Let every one in the country, the zamindars especially, help the Government in the enquiry. Why are the zamindars silent over the matter? Let them collect facts about the extent and intensity of the water-scarcity which prevails in the country and report them to the authorities. Let not any false sense of delicacy and shame deter them from bringing to the notice of the authorities the real condition of the country and their utter helplessness in ameliorating it. It is a question of life and death to crores of poor people, and no personal consideration should have any weight with the zamindars in dealing with it. In spite of the recent announcement of Government's intentions on the subject of water-supply, no zamindar has as yet come forward with any statement as to the extent of the distress within his zamindari and his own capacity for removing it.

BANGAVASI,
April 30th, 1904.

Newspapers should publish true and detailed accounts, one for every place, of the hardship which prevails in the mufassal owing to water-scarcity. They should state how many tanks there were formerly in a village, how many there are now, what is the condition of the water of the tanks which now exist, if the villagers receive their water-supply from any river what is its distance from the village, etc., etc. They should see how many District Boards and zamindars are in a position to spend money in the matter of water-supply and how many are not. Some years ago a few respectable inhabitants of Gobardanga in the 24-Parganas went to a village near Nadia-Gokna within

the Basirhat subdivision of the same district to attend a bridal feast. The host entertained them sumptuously, but the piteous description which he gave, with tears in his eyes, of the severe scarcity of water prevailing in the village and of his inability to have an adequate supply of water, moved his guests also to tears.

Village Molla-Belia, near Nadia-Harighata, district 24-Parganas.—Formerly there were 14 or 15 tanks in it. Now there is only one.

Nadia-Nakasipara.—Formerly there were eight or nine tanks in it. Now there are only two, of which the water is unwholesome.

Sarsa Sikarpur, district Jessore.—Formerly there were three tanks in the village. Now there is not even one. The Betrabati river is a mile and-a-half distant from the village.

Maslandapur, Sadpur, Nangila and other villages in the 24-Parganas district.—No tanks. The Jamuna river is situated at a distance of between two and three miles.

Bhangamorha, Somaluk, Karoa and many other villages in the Hooghly district.—Almost without tanks. In many places women dig the bed of the Damodar and collect the little water which oozes through the holes. Women fetch water from tanks situate at distances of three or four miles.

Village Dakshinkhanda, thana Bharatpur, district Murshidabad.—Not one of the tanks is good.

The Hon'ble Rai Tarini Prasad, Bahadur, is requested to bestir himself in the matter and exert his powerful influence in the cause of water-supply.

We beseech you, too, O Sir Andrew Fraser, not to remain apathetic in the matter. You are the pious son of a Christian missionary. You are religious. Give us water. Save us.

MURSHIDABAD,
HITAISHI,
April 27th, 1904.

25. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th April complains that the pound-keeper of Sujaganj in the Murshidabad district oppresses owners of impounded cattle very severely. Here is an instance in point. The

The pound-keeper of Sujaganj in the Murshidabad district.

cow of a respectable orthodox Brahmin having been impounded, he went to get the animal back; but the pound-keeper was away and the Brahmin, after waiting there for four or five hours, returned home disappointed and touched no food nor drink during the night following, as the cow remained without food or drink. The pound-keeper tries to increase his income by keeping the impounded cattle without food and wilfully remaining absent from the pound, thereby lengthening the period of detention of the animals. Is there no one to take due notice of this conduct of the pound-keeper of Sujaganj?

26. It is to be regretted, says the *Rangpur Vartavaha* [Rangpur] of the 29th April, that our repeated appeals to the servants and authorities of the Rangpur Municipality to do the needful for a number of bad and stinking drains

A complaint against the Rangpur Municipality.

and privies, have been ineffectual. The attention of the District Magistrate is therefore drawn to the matter.

27. The *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 1st May has the following:—

RANGALAY,
May 1st, 1904.

The condition of Bengal villages.

To save Bengal and its people, it is necessary to save its villages. And the first thing necessary to do, in order to save the villages of Bengal from ruin, is to enquire into the causes which are making them uninhabitable. The next thing to do is to remove these causes. When this is done, the people of Bengal will be saved.

Three causes have led to the ruin of the Bengal villages, namely, water-scarcity, want of good roads and other means of communication, and obstruction of drainage.

There is no scarcity of tanks in villages. But the tanks are never cleansed or re-excavated, in some cases for want of funds and in others from disagreement among the co-owners. Formerly the man who had a tank excavated was its sole owner, and could do with it as he pleased. But, in course of time, the tank has come to be owned in equal shares by all his descendants, and the consequence is that no one cares for the small share of the tank he owns and it has gradually gone from bad to worse. Another obstacle in the way of the re-excavation of tanks is the poverty of the people who now live in villages.

Villages also suffer greatly from want of means of communication. People have lost their old habit of walking long distances on foot, and the railway stations being generally at a distance from villages and there being no good feeder roads, well-to-do and even middle class people do not like village life and, leaving their village homes, congregate in towns. As a consequence, the villages have come to be lived in only by the poor people. Look at villages which are still inhabited by well-to-do people. Their health is extremely good. Let village roads be improved, and one will find middle class people flocking to them, and the health of the villages will improve.

The drainage systems of a very large number of villages have been obstructed by railway embankments. The villages on either side of the Hooghly slope away from the river, the banks of the river being comparatively high. The natural drainage of the villages is, therefore, towards the interior. But in that direction the drainage meets with obstruction from the railway embankments, and the consequence is that all the rain-water remains logged in the village and soaks into the soil, making it damp. This causes malaria, dysentery, cholera, and small-pox. Recently this obstruction also led to outbreaks of remittent and typhoid fevers.

It is now to be considered how these discomforts of village life can best be removed. Government levies the road-cess upon the village people, and it is its duty to spend a portion of the money so realised upon the excavation and improvement of tanks. Let Government keep possession of the fishery right in tanks it excavates or improves till the cost of the work is realised, allowing the people only the use of the water. Excavation or re-excavation of tanks will not only supply the villagers with good water, but will help in the filling in of a good many *dubás* in the village and improve village sanitation in more ways than one. If Government proceeds on this line, it will profit itself and benefit the villagers at the same time. It is true, zamindars can be made to come to the people's help in the matter of water-supply, but the best way is for Government to spend a portion of the road-cess upon it. The truth is that Government nowadays pays little heed to its duties by its subjects, or the grievance would not have continued so long. But Government ought to know that the Bengal villages will not be long habitable if the grievance is not soon removed.

The best way to improve the communications of villages near Calcutta will be to make good roads or improve the existing ones, and dredge the mouths of the rivers and streams which connect them with the interior of the country. Improvement of roads requires expenditure, to which Government seems to be averse. But, wherever possible, tramway lines may be opened. These lines may have to be worked at a loss for the first few years, but as soon as middle class and well-to-do people come to live in villages, they will turn out lucrative concerns. But this plan of improving communication will also require a helping hand from the Government.

The dredging of the mouths of such rivers as the Jamuna, the Saraswati, the Kananadi, the Churni, the Kharia, the Ichhamati, the Kabodak, the Bhairab, and the Betua, which are connected either with the Bhagirathi or the Padma, will improve the drainage of the villages through which they flow, and by drawing away a good volume of the water of the Padma, make it impossible for that river to work the devastation it now works in consequence of its volume.

The truth is that though Government can, if it wishes, make Bengal villages habitable, it will not do so. The Englishmen who rule over this country think it enough for the Bengalis to live, if they can, or to die. The few that may survive will be enough for the purposes of the rulers.

(g)—*Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.*

28. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th April writes:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI.
April 26th, 1904.

Inconveniences of third-class passengers at the Burdwan railway station.

The East Indian Railway Company has re-constructed the down platform of the Burdwan station, and provided waiting-rooms for first and second-class passengers and for European ladies.

But for intermediate and third-class passengers all that has been done is to

erect an open corrugated iron shed, the floor being covered with gravel, and there being no benches for the passengers to sit upon. The third-class passengers are regarded more as herds of cattle than human beings. But who, it may be asked, pays the greater amount of money to the Railway Company? There is no waiting-room for native ladies on the down platform. The bridge leading to the down platform was pulled down, but no steps have yet been taken for its reconstruction. The attention of the railway authorities should be drawn to the above.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
April 27th, 1904.

29. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th April publishes the rules and regulations of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway for the comfort and convenience of intermediate and third class passengers, and observes:—

We thank the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway authorities for the rules and regulations they have made, which will surely remove many inconveniences of the passengers. It is to be hoped that similar rules will be made on other railways for the convenience of the intermediate and third class passengers.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 29th, 1904.

30. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th April says that the authorities of the Oudh and Rohilkhand Railway have laid the Indians under a great obligation by making excellent regulations for third class passenger traffic on their line. Very strict orders have been passed regarding the treatment to be accorded to native female passengers. Female passengers are certainly entitled to receive greater care and attention than male passengers. Intermediate and third class female compartments should be painted in distinctive colours. Ordinarily the words "Native Women" are inscribed on common third class carriages, or sometimes a white cross mark (+) is made on them to indicate that the carriage or compartment is intended for women. But this is not enough. At all stations female passengers, or even their male relatives, cannot easily find out the female compartments. This is especially the case at night. Separate booking-offices should be opened at all important stations for women, where female booking-clerks should issue tickets. Considering that the bulk of the income of Indian railways is derived from native third class passengers, their comfort and convenience should receive the earnest consideration of the authorities. But, as a matter of fact, nowhere in the world are third class passengers so shamefully treated as in India.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
April 27th, 1904.

31. A correspondent writes to the *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 27th April that the proposed change of site of a station on the Jiaganj-Lalgola branch of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad Railway from Guripara near Lalgola to Bhowanipur, a village about a mile and-a-half distant from Lalgola, has caused grave anxiety in the public mind. Lalgola is situated on the Bhairab river, it is a healthy place and a depôt of all the jute and various species of pulse grown in the surrounding area; while Bhowanipur, besides being unhealthy, is a place of no importance. A petition largely signed by the inhabitants, pointing out the respective claims of the two places, has been submitted to the Chief Engineer, and the result is anxiously expected.

JYOTI,
April 28th, 1904.

32. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 28th April says that the railway authorities at Chittagong have ousted all native shopkeepers from the place near Laksham Bazar where trains stop and goods are loaded and unloaded, and given two Companies, the Bulloch Brothers Company and the Planters' Stores Agency, their sanction to construct shops there. It is but natural that cases like this should have the effect of impairing the people's confidence in Englishmen.

HITAVADI,
April 29th, 1904.

33. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th April suggests that in this hot season every railway train should be provided with casks of water and there should be a Hindu and a Musalman waterman in the train to supply it to passengers. It is a shame that no such arrangement exists at present for the benefit of poor third class passengers, who form the bulk of railway passenger traffic in India.

34. The same paper says that complaints are frequently heard against the railway servants attached to the Howrah station on the East Indian Railway. Few passengers can escape the oppression and insolence of the licensed coolies in the station. Besides this, the ignorance of many a Luggage Clerk and Luggage Inspector is the source of much oppression. On the 16th April last, a Luggage Inspector actually detained a second class daily passenger in consequence of a serious mistake for which the former was responsible. The Inspector did not know that small perambulators, of which the wheels are taken off, are carried at the ordinary rate of fare.

A railway complaint.

HITAVADI,
April 29th, 1904.

(h)—General.

35. The *Eurdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th April complains that the other day the Money-order Clerk of the Burdwan Rajbati Post Office refused to receive a money-order, although it was presented at 3-45 p.m. The clerk seems to be very unpopular, and he sometimes refuses to supply postage stamps to the public. For some unknown cause, no letter was delivered at the Mithapukur village from last Thursday to Sunday. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the above.

A postal complaint.

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
April 26th, 1904.

36. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th April writes that a rumour is afloat that in its report to the Government of India on the transfer proposal, the Bengal Government has not lent it its support.

The Bengal Government in the transfer question.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
April 27th, 1904.

37. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 28th April suggests that Babus Surendranath Banerji and Romes Chundra Datta should be sent to England as the representatives of the Bengalis for the purpose of opposing Lord Curzon in the attempt which he is sure to make to induce the authorities in England to give their sanction to the proposed partition of Bengal. The writer asks, "Should we remain silent when such a calamity threatens the country? Should we allow our boat to be sunk when we have almost got to the opposite bank?" and exhorts the Bengalis to raise sufficient funds for the purpose of making an agitation in England.

The transfer question.

SANJIVANI,
April 28th, 1904.

38. It is rumoured, says the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April, that the views of the Bengal Government and of many high officials on the separation question have reached the Government of India, and that most of the Civilians are against the proposed partition. The people are, however, still in fear.

The proposed transfer.

BANGAVASI,
April 30th, 1904.

39. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 27th April writes:—

Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate of Murshidabad.

There is a class of men in the world who cannot remain content without oppressing other people. One wonders whether Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate of Murshidabad, belongs to this class. The deeds he has committed in Murshidabad have often brought disgrace upon him and the Government, and the loss and trouble thereby inflicted upon others have been incalculable. That after all this he should be still in Murshidabad is indeed surprising. His various acts of oppression and high-handedness lead to the one conclusion that the great object of his life is to do mischief to others.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
April 27th, 1904.

Recently he has created another uproar in Murshidabad by taking possession, on behalf of Government, of the *chur* lands in the Bhagirathi river, which had been in the possession of the Sen Babus of Berhampur for a long time. The method of taking possession was unusual. The notice intimating that the lands in question belonged to Government was issued on the 5th April last at some time during the day, and at night possession was taken by beat of drum. Such a course surprised everybody. The wonder is that, without asking the opinion of the Divisional Commissioner or of the Legal Remembrancer, Mr. Carey at once proceeded to take possession of the lands, the private property of an individual. But he ought to remember that there is law in the land and that his illegalities will not stand. But why was possession taken at night? Why this indecent haste? Would anybody have fled away with the *chur* lands? Government ought to find employment for such an overzealous official in some other department. It is discreditable to place such an officer in such a responsible office.

BARISAL HITAIISHI,
April 27th, 1904.

40. The *Barisal Hitaishi* [Barisal] of the 27th April complains that the grog-shop near the Jail road in the Barisal town remains where it was, in spite of the strong agitation made in the Press for its removal to a less objectionable place. Not only that, but new grog-shops are being set up in other respectable quarters. As far as possible, Government ought to see that the interests of the community are not sacrificed for the sake of its excise revenue.

HITAVADI,
April 29th, 1904.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th April writes as follows:—

Mr. Yakchee, the Superintendent of the Revenue Board Office.

We hear that our articles against Mr. Yakchee, the Superintendent of the Revenue Board Office in Calcutta, led the authorities to call for an explanation from him, and that, thanks to the patronage which is extended to him, he has not only been able to escape all punishment, but also to get his term of office extended for one year. This is astonishing. But what better justice could be expected in a case in which a white skin was concerned? Mr. Yakchee has now doubled his oppressions on the copyists under him. Mr. Buckland is his patron and so he does not care for anybody. When Mr. [Buckland was Officiating Secretary of the Board, some of his arbitrary doings were noticed in the Press. For this reason he fined all the clerks in the office a week's pay, and nothing short of the Lieutenant-Governor's intervention could make him return the fines realised. Mr. Yakchee has a son, named A. Yakchee, in the Board's Office. Mr. A. Yakchee was a clerk in the office of the Comptroller of the Post Office on Rs. 35 per month. He is now getting Rs. 125 in the Board's Office through his father's influence. If his yearly promotion is stopped for any reason his father does not hesitate to speak for him to the Secretary and get his disqualification removed.

HITAVADI.

42. A correspondent of the same paper says that many of those who had, been induced by Babu Nabin Chandra Sen, the well-known Bengali poet and Mr. Lea, the late District Magistrate of Chittagong, to come forward with offers to improve the Chandranath shrine and remove the grievances of pilgrims who resorted to it, have now abandoned all such projects owing to serious obstacles having been thrown in their way by Jatindraban, a disciple of the late Mohant of the shrine, Kishorban. The shrine is now under the management of a Superintendent appointed by the local Endowment Committee. This committee has rejected the claims of Jatindraban to the Mohantship of the shrine and advised Srimati Dinamani Chaudhurani, a zamindar of Santosh, Mymensingh, to proceed with the work of the reform of the local *Gayakshetra* which she has generously undertaken. But it is rumoured that she will stop the work owing to fresh difficulties having cropped up.

The Chandranath shrine.

DAILY HITAVADI,
April 29th, 1904.

43. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 29th April has the following:—

The departure of Mr. Buckland from India.

The Buckland family have made themselves famous in Bengal in various ways. The august personage bearing this name, who was once the Chief Secretary to the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, is about to proceed home on leave. We are perhaps going to be rid of him. Never, never shall we have a precious Secretary like him. Our joy will be unbounded if we are really saved from Mr. Buckland.

Mr. Buckland wrote an account of the Lieutenant-Governors of Bengal. It would be an interesting thing, no doubt, if a list could be prepared of those unfortunate individuals who found themselves compelled to purchase copies of his book either through fear of punishment or from a desire to win his favour. A book which was sold out before publication, which was reprinted in a few days, of which the price was paid in advance before the second edition was out, and of which more than one copy was purchased by each one of the subscribers, must have been exceedingly meritorious, or else how could it have been so much in demand? The aid of astrology need not perhaps be invoked for an explanation of that mysterious influence which caused every customer to purchase many copies of the book.

Mr. Buckland, it would appear, shewed an unmistakable inclination to do a great good to this country by opposing the separation of the executive and judicial functions. His idea was that as the possession by a single person of many copies of his book could not but appear nice and advantageous, so must

the concentration of many powers in the hands of one officer appear equally advantageous and charming. Such being the case, his opinions were bound to carry great weight.

The Bucklands are an old family of Anglo-Indian officials. Our hero therefore had an opportunity of knowing many persons, small and great, intimately. Sale transactions, loans, brokerage, presents, and all similar matters, which were not known to other officials, were well known to him. We doubt whether among Government officials Mr. Buckland had his equal in a knowledge of mysteries and secrets. That is why he understood the value of recommendations, requests, etc., better than any one else.

Mr. Buckland's brother has fled from the country, leaving a record of his achievements in the Army Clothing Department; but even he could not rise so high as to be Chief Secretary and make his exist in so glorious a fashion. But that after all Mr. Buckland has left the country is certainly a great blessing to us. Like the old man in the Arabian Nights getting upon the shoulders of the merchant Sindbad and refusing to come down, the Bucklands sat upon India's shoulders and threatened to remain there for all time. Great indeed would be our relief if they should now get down and leave us.

There was a rumour that a public meeting would be held to bid farewell to Mr. Buckland. Fortunate it was that no such thing was attempted. Otherwise, a great scandal would have taken place, many unpleasant questions would have been discussed, and in spite of the Official Secrets Act, many secrets would have come to light. On the few occasions that we met Mr. Buckland, he gave many proofs of his social qualities; but we never could feel that he had any great liking for the people of this country. He used to impute motives to other people, and if anybody made a protest, used to say, "I am much older than you; you too will learn much when you grow old." Many a man of questionable merit found a patron in Mr. Buckland; many of them had a smooth sailing throughout their career and rose higher and higher solely through his influence. That such a worthy official has at last severed his connection with Bengal is a great gain to us.

44. A writer in the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 30th April says that on the 15th idem, a boat in which he was travelling was measured at the Garhiya Toll Office in the

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
April 30th, 1904.

A toll complaint. Howrah district. While the interior of the boat was being measured, he saw that the measurements were 8 feet in breadth and 2 feet 4 inches in depth. But in the ticket the measurements were written as 27 feet long, 13 feet broad, and 2 feet 4 inches deep, and a tax of Re. 1-1 was realised from the *manjhi*, who protested that it could not be more than 10 annas. The number of the ticket is 33314.

45. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 30th April says that if experimental farms are intended to be of any use to the Bengal raiyats, there should be at least 24 such farms established in the 48 districts of the Province. In the meantime, the existing ones should be well worked.

BANGAVASI,
April 30th, 1904.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

46. The *Ratnakar* [Asansol] of the 30th April writes that severe distress and water-scarcity prevail in Ichhapur, Patsaora, Ardi, Baguri and many other villages in the Faridpur outpost of the Burdwan district. The attention of Government is drawn to the matter.

RATNAKAR,
March 30th, 1904.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

47. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 26th April writes as follows:—

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
April 26th, 1904.

"India is not England." The English have won this Indian Empire with the sword. If the ruler of this Indian Empire won by Englishmen with the sword after crossing the immense ocean and undergoing innumerable hardships—if the ruler of this empire which is to Englishmen as a mine of inexhaustible wealth and whose riches have made England the first Power on earth, whose arts got into their own hands by English merchants by stratagem

have made them rich and powerful, and thanks to which even the most worthless Englishman is sure of his bread—were to show any anxiety to promote the interests of Indians in disregard of the interests of his own countrymen, he would be rightly set down as a traitor to his race and his country and deservedly looked upon with contempt by his countrymen.

We are constantly pestering the authorities with demands for this and that. It is madness, however, to expect that they will do us good at the sacrifice of their own interests. We think ourselves highly enlightened by our Western knowledge, and we therefore loudly proclaim before the world this pleasant evangel of equality. "Look ye Englishmen, we have become quite fit to manage our own affairs. We can speak English well and write it excellently. There is no difference any longer between you and us except in colour, and colour hardly counts for anything in matters like these. Leave us now alone to manage our own affairs." How pleasantly would words like these sound to Englishmen! How would the speakers of words like these—be they newspapers editors or leaders of the Congress—inspire Englishmen with sympathy and good-will!

Many of us have at present an impression that we are equal to Englishmen in all respects. Englishmen as well as ourselves are subjects of the same Sovereign, and we are therefore entitled to obtain the same rights from our Government which Englishmen in England are entitled to obtain from the Sovereign. But we are mistaken in our impression. The people of England can, if they choose, overawe the Sovereign on the throne by the lightest word. As a matter of fact, the administration in England is conducted according to the will of the people. But the united voice of the three hundred millions of Indians has not the least influence over even a single English ruler in India. It does not trouble in the least the powers that be. What weight can there be in the words of those that are worthless? What influence or dignity can the worthless have?

We only court rebuff by our constant loud demand for rights and privileges equal to those enjoyed by Englishmen. Our fate is similar to that of the ass, who envious of the caresses showered by the master on the pet dog reposing on his lap, would lift his forelegs on to his lap in expectation of a similar indulgence. The caresses of the Sovereign enjoyed by Englishmen can never be expected by Indians, who are as asses meant only to carry burdens. India is the conquered dominion of Englishmen, while England is their happy home as well as the happy home of all who are near and dear to them. He must be mad who would claim for this conquered dominion an equality with that happy home of Englishmen. England is the master and India is the slave, and the relation of Englishmen and Indians is that of masters and slaves. We are grievously in error in mistaking this mutual relation. It is a crime to go beyond one's rights. It is therefore a crime on our part to claim equality with our reverend masters. Shall this craving never cease? Shall we never see our mistake? Shall we never realise that India is not England? Shall we never understand that it is only to promote their own interests that Englishmen have come to this far-off country? Shall we never cease uttering such ravings as "Englishmen, leave everything to us and, for yourselves, seek a peaceful hermitage"?

URIYA PAPERS.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 21st, 1904.

48. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 21st April and the *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 20th April state that rain is urgently wanted in the Balasore district.

GARJATBASINI,
April 23rd, 1904.

49. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 23rd April says that the mango crop is being dried up and spoiled through want of rain-water. The failure of the mango crop is thus a great loss to the poor in Dhenkanal and Talcher, who generally live upon it for eight weeks.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 23rd, 1904.

The weather.

50. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 23rd April states that there is no rain and that the temperature is rising.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
April 20th, 1904.

Cholera and small-pox at Balasore.

51. The *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 20th April states that the Balasore town is not yet free from cholera and small-pox.

52. The same paper draws the attention of the Municipal Commissioners to the speech which His Excellency the Viceroy delivered at Burdwan, and observes that those who aspire after local self-government must feel the force of the words of wisdom which His Excellency has uttered.

Lord Curzon's Burdwan speech.

URIYA AND
NAVABAHVAD,
April 20th, 1904.

The new Commissioner of the Orissa Division.

53. The same paper receives Mr. Growse, the new Commissioner of Orissa, with a sympathetic heart, and hopes that his administration will be a successful one.

URIYA AND
NAVABAHVAD.

54. The same paper is glad that the relations between England and France have improved much of late, and thinks that the friendly feeling between the two great Powers is a fresh guarantee that the world's peace will be preserved.

URIYA AND
NAVABAHVAD.

55. The same paper has every sympathy for Miss Sarala Debi, who is organising an ambulance corps for service in the Far East. The writer observes that this happy and benevolent idea will induce many to subscribe towards the undertaking.

Miss Sarala Debi's projected Red Cross Ambulance Corps.

URIYA AND
NAVABAHVAD.

56. The same paper requests its readers to patronise the manufacture of earthenware in Calcutta, which has been started by Indians on a decent scale, and observes that the Indians must learn to appreciate the merit of local manufactures before importing articles of foreign manufacture.

The earthenware industry in Calcutta.

URIYA AND
NAVABAHVAD.

57. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 21st April is glad to find that the Bagbrindaban tank in the Balasore town is being re-excavated and repaired by Babu Ramesh Chandra Mandal at the instance of Mr. Egerton, the District Magistrate, and is of opinion that the water of the tank will prove very useful to a large number of men and women in that town.

The re-excavation of a tank at Balasore.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
April 21st, 1904.

58. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 23rd April approves of certain changes introduced into the *rasad* system in vogue in the Talcher State and says that public officers on travelling duty in that State shall henceforward be required to pay for their food and lodge, which they used to obtain free up to the present moment. The writer is of opinion that the Raja has removed a good ground for complaint by a manly and statesmanlike stroke.

The *rasad* system in the Talcher State.

GARJATBASINI,
April 23rd, 1904.

59. The same paper is informed that the sunset law in connection with the payment of land revenue that is in force in British India has been introduced into the Tributary State of Dhenkanal and is proposed to be introduced into the Talcher State. The people of Dhenkanal have thereby become discontented.

The sunset law in certain Tributary States.

GARJATBASINI.

60. The same paper states that the Raja of Talcher is a good shot. He successfully bagged a huge royal tiger the other day.

A tiger bagged.

GARJATBASINI.

61. The *Utkaldipika* [Calcutta] of the 23rd April draws the attention of its readers to the speech delivered by the Raja of Nabha at a meeting of the Sikhs in the Punjab, and agrees with him in his view that the religious education of the young Indians should by no means be neglected.

The Raja of Nabha's speech in the Punjab.

UTKALDIPIKA,
April 23rd, 1904.

62. The same paper thanks the Manager of the Puri temple, on behalf of the Hindu community, for his sincere solicitude for the comfort and convenience of pilgrims proceeding to Puri during the Chandan festival. He is trying to make the Chandan pilgrims as happy as practicable. He is taking steps to clear the Chandan tank of its dangerous living contents, namely, crocodiles.

The Manager of the Puri temple thanked.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

63. The *Paridarsak* [Sylhet] of the 23rd April has the following communicated article in English:—

"The crusade against the Bengali Babu."

If some English papers are to be taken at their own word, Lord Curzon deserves the highest credit,

PARIDARSAK,
April 23rd, 1904.

may a prominent niche in the projected Victoria Memorial Hall, for cornering the Bengali Babu, who seems to haunt the imagination of these Indophobe publicists like an apparition or ghoul, by his famous Resolution on Education of the 11th March 1904. Lord Curzon has made himself out in that Resolution to have been actuated by the best of motives, to wit, reform of the existing educational system, so as to fortify and invigorate the manhood and character of future generations of Indian subjects ; but these British journals have been depicted in colours which are no way complimentary to the domineering genius of the Indian Bureaucracy. They have found matter for joy only in their attempt to drive the overgrown Bengali Babu to the wall by disarming him of his principal weapons, his serviceable aptitude for passing examinations as passports to Government service, and by laying him under a ban by the introduction of the probationary system of recruitment for public service in the place of the prevailing competitive system. What is all this acrimony owing to ? What has the Bengali Babu done to merit all this cheapening attention from the pillars of the British Indian Empire ? The Bengali Babu is not soldier enough to threaten the stability of the stupenduous fabric of the Empire of India. The Bengali Babu has never taken the law in his hands, nor has he been preaching Nihilism against the rulers of the land. He has not yet shown any signs of being otherwise than law-abiding and anxious to save his own limbs and those of his own countrymen if such saving is possible with his pen, and not the sword or the assassin's dagger. The head and front of his offending may have been his acuteness in divining the secret spring of British Indian policy and diplomacy and the ventilation of his discoveries in the columns of his country's papers. A great shock may thus have been given to the *amour propre* of the dictatorial and proud tamers of the land. In no other way has the Bengali Babu given mortal offence to his rulers. He aims at intellectual equality, tries conclusions in the domain of scientific discoveries, rivals in eloquence the orators of the West, competes for the blue ribbon of honour in English Universities and, in short, shows himself solicitous of working his way up the ladder till the unapproachable pinnacle of glory on which British intellect and might stand comes to be within measurable distance of his ambitious grasp. If such energisings and aspirations are offences, then the Bengali Babu is the most offence-giving slave in this world and richly deserves to be in bad odour with his rulers and to be exiled from the good graces of the benevolent despots, his English masters.

Ineffable gratification has been expressed at the changes introduced by Lord Curzon. The abolition of the system of competitive examinations and its substitution by the probationary system will, it is hoped and desired ardently, have the effect of minimising the number of the educated Bengali Babus in Government employ. Instead of success at examinations in which his most retentive memory played such havoc against his competitors, the white-brown Eurasians and their like, character, business-capacity, and general fitness will form the criteria of efficiency henceforward. These tests will be applied during a period of probation. The probationary service will enable the nominees to attain the "requisite acquaintance with the laws, rules, and regulations of departments." The multiplication of competitive tests for Government service has not resulted in advantage to Government, nor is it consistent with the highest interests of a liberal education. So probation, a 'patronage with all its tricks and jobbery,' is trumpeted forth as calculated to bring about the necessary betterment in the character and attitude of the Government employes. Despite all these extraordinary virtues claimed for probationary service, may it not be asked, who will be the persons to judge of the general character, business-capacity, and general fitness of the candidates ? Will Lord Curzon and his colleagues do this work of discrimination, or will the district heads of the stamp and calibre of the present day do this difficult work ? Will His Excellency be in a position to lay down irrefragable canons of judgment or check for the guidance of the district authorities, such as is the case in the examination of accounts, or will full discretion be left to the latter ? Are rules, may it be asked, at all capable of being framed—rules such as may be of any practical value ? If not, the Government of India would do well to introduce a better system of recruitment of the superior grades of Government servants in this realm to co-ordinate with the reformed scheme of selection for the lower or low-paid

grades, and to give practical effect to his benevolent pedantries. Paper schemes always do not do the same amount of good as practical ones, nor do Utopian ideas take ready root in a soil which has already been adapted to other crops. Carried away by admiration for himself and his like, his own countrymen who are engaged in the administrative craft in this country, the members of the inspired service, His Excellency quite forget for the time being what stuff his compatriots are made of, how the unfettered exercise of almost imperial powers in their own narrow spheres demoralise, dehumanise, and degrade his countrymen, what the ordinary code of ethics is that prevails among them, how they are trained from an unripe age even to out-Curzon Lord Curzon himself in playing the rôle of the inaccessible imperialist and the overbearing autocrat. His Lordship has forged the weapons in the seclusion of his study; but they will be wielded by these imitation models of his own august personality, and with what terrible effect, the trembling sheep that spy the sweep of the sacrificial sword can only appreciate. His Excellency will soon be in a far-off land, absorbed in the study of deeper and grander problems, and will not for a moment even care to take stock of the gruesome results his benevolent despotism has paved the way for.

64. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 30th April complains that Babu Joges Chandra Biswas, second clerk of the Local Board, is very irregular in making payment of salaries to the gurus. Nityananda Patni, one of the gurus, has not yet got his dues, solely through Joges Babu's negligence. Such irregularities are unpardonable.

SILCHAR,
April 30th, 1904.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 7th May, 1904.

